IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head comprising:

a substrate;

a first conductive layer provided on the substrate;

an insulating layer provided on the first conductive layer;

a second conductive layer formed on the ~~insulting~~ insulating layer and coming into contact with the first conductive layer; and

a heat generation layer disposed on the second conductive layer and having, on a surface thereof, a self-oxidized protective film as an ink-contact interface.

2. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~said~~ the first and second conductive layers is metal which includes, as a principal component, aluminum or aluminum alloy.

3. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the heat generation layer is a TaSiO film.

4. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head comprising:

a substrate;

a first conductive layer provided on the substrate;

an insulating layer provided on the first conductive layer;

a second conductive layer formed on the insulating layer and coming into contact with ~~said~~ the first conductive layer; and

a heat generation layer disposed on ~~said~~ the second conductive layer and having, on a surface thereof, a self-oxidized protective film as an ink-contact interface,

wherein a portion is formed, which portion alleviates a stepped portion formed by an edge of ~~said~~ the second conductive layer and ~~said~~ the insulating layer.

5. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 4, wherein at least one of ~~said~~ the first and second conductive layers is metal which includes, as a principal component, aluminum or aluminum alloy.

6. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ the heat generation layer is a TaSiO film.

7. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording head according to claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ the step-difference alleviating portion is formed by laminated insulating films comprised of different compositions formed on ~~said~~ the second conductive layer.

8. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording cartridge equipped with an ink-jet recording head comprising:

a substrate;

a first conductive layer provided on the substrate;

an insulating layer provided on the first conductive layer;

a second conductive layer formed on the ~~insulting~~ insulating layer and coming into contact with the first conductive layer; and

a heat generation layer disposed on the second conductive layer and having, on a surface thereof, a self-oxidized protective film as an ink-contact interface.

9. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording cartridge according to claim 8, wherein, in the ink-jet recording head, a portion is formed, which portion alleviates a stepped portion formed by an edge of ~~said~~ the second conductive layer and ~~said~~ the insulating layer.

10. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording device equipped with an ink-jet recording cartridge equipped with an ink-jet recording head comprising:

a substrate;

a first conductive layer provided on the substrate;

an insulating layer provided on the first conductive layer;

a second conductive layer formed on the ~~insulting~~ insulating layer and coming into contact with the first conductive layer; and

a heat generation layer disposed on the second conductive layer and having, on a surface thereof, a self-oxidized protective film as an ink-contact interface.

11. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording device according to claim 10, wherein, in the ink-jet recording head, a portion is formed, which portion alleviates a stepped portion formed by an edge of ~~said~~ the second conductive layer and ~~said~~ the insulating layer.